

### REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hampton in view of Yagi et al. and Hale, Jr. et al., and claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hampton in view of Yagi et al. and in further view of Hale, Jr. et al.

As discussed in the response (Amendment A) to the previous office action, the gist of the instant invention is to provide a method for manufacturing a seamless wheel rim to provide a wheel rim with higher strength, better performance and lower cost. Accordingly, **an aluminum alloy plate is pre-cut into a circular plate and then shaped into a cup-shaped embryo body by a deep drawing die using a drawing process.** The cup-shaped embryo body of the instant invention has **a first end being shaped into a cup-shaped cylinder and a second end being shaped into an embryo expansion part** to facilitate the following expanding-pressing process. It is important to note that **the embryo expansion part at the second end formed with the deep drawing die using a drawing process** is a critical feature of the invention. It should further be noted that **the diameter of the embryo expansion part is greater than that of the cylinder** as clearly shown in FIG. 4 and described in paragraph [0020].

In the office action, the examiner cites Hampton to reject claim 3 on the ground that Hampton discloses “drawing the circular plate into a cub-shaped embryo body (dish 3) by deep drawing die having a first end shaped into a cup-shaped cylinder (circular base part 4) and a second end being shaped into an embryo expansion part (cylindrical,

annular, flange part 5 at the external periphery of the part 4), (Column 1, lines 44-47 and Column 2, lines 48-52). Applicants respectively contend that the rejection is unwarranted because it is very obvious from Hampton's disclosure that Hampton's art comprises only a **dish 3** consisting of a **circular base part 4** and a **circular, annular, flange part 5**. **The whole dish 3 of Hampton corresponds to the cup-shaped cylinder (IA2 of Figure 4(c)) of the instant invention.** Nowhere can **the embryo expansion part** of the instant invention be found in Hampton's disclosure. Applicants respectfully submit that it is illogical to **interpret the circular base 4 of Hampton as a cup-shaped cylinder** for the purpose of interpreting **a cylindrical part 5** as an expansion part to reject claim 3. As can be clearly seen from Hampton's figures that dish 3 is simply a cup-shaped cylinder with a base and there is nothing shaped into an embryo expansion part on the second end.

As also discussed in the previous response, Yagi et al. disclose a method of shaping a wheel rim by using an upper mold and a lower mold to punch a cylindrical body to form a wheel rim. Throughout the disclosure, Yagi et al. neither teach nor suggest **"drawing a circular plate into a cup-shaped embryo body by a deep drawing die, said cup-shaped embryo body having a first end being shaped into a cup-shaped cylinder and a second end being shaped into an embryo expansion part"**.

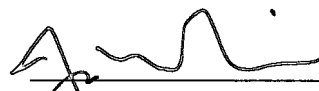
Hale Jr. et al. teach an annular rim body cold formed from a light alloy metal sheet by rolling the metal sheet into a cylinder with the ends butt welded together (col. 3, lines 20-45). The subject matter of Hale Jr. et al. is far from the deep drawing process of the instant invention. As none of the cited prior arts has disclosed, suggested, or anticipated the novel feature of the instant invention as discussed above, it is not logical

for a person of ordinary skill to combine them to reach the instant invention as recited in claim 3.

In response to the office action, applicants further amend claim 3 to include the limitation of an embryo expansion part with a diameter greater than the diameter of said cup-shaped cylinder so as to avoid any mis-interpretation or confusion between Hampton's cylindrical flange and the embryo expansion part of the instant invention. As the embryo expansion part is critical to the following expanding-pressing process of the invention, it is evident that claim 3 is novel, non-obvious and allowable over the cited prior arts. By virtue of dependency, claim 4 should also be allowable.

From the foregoing discussion, it is clear that the instant invention differs from the cited prior arts. The physical difference results in different effects and is not obvious. Claims 3 and 4 have overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and are in full condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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